

Introduced Version

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture to study and take appropriate action regarding all circumstances that impair the ability of American farmers to compete effectively with foreign competition.

Jackman, Hershman

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture to study and take appropriate action regarding all circumstances that impair the ability of American farmers to compete effectively with foreign competition.

Whereas, America's farms currently export approximately 30 percent of their production, and these exports significantly improve the nation's balance of payments and are important to the well-being of the entire American economy;

Whereas, Farm exports are essential to the financial health of agriculture and to the economic development of Indiana and other American states;

Whereas, The United States General Accounting Office released a report in January 2000 detailing disparities in cost of inputs to produce soybeans between American farmers and some of their South American competitors;

Whereas, The General Accounting Office's report revealed that these cost disparities are due in part to discriminatory pricing practices of suppliers who provide seed and other agricultural inputs to South American farmers at costs significantly below those charged to American farmers;

Whereas, The General Accounting Office's report suggested that certain aspects of American laws may provide incentives to suppliers of agricultural inputs to discriminate against the American farmer in pricing these inputs;



Whereas, The pricing practices of suppliers of agricultural inputs could be extended to agricultural products other than soybeans;

Whereas, This disparate increase in the costs of agricultural inputs places the American farmer at a severe disadvantage in competition with foreign farmers; and

Whereas, American farm, fiscal, and other policies have impaired the profitability of the American farmer and resulted in decreased competitiveness with foreign agriculture; Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:

1 SECTION 1. That the Congress of the United States and the United
2 States Department of Agriculture should investigate unfair price
3 differentials in the cost of agricultural inputs with respect to the
4 American farmers' foreign competition.

5 SECTION 2. That the Congress of the United States and the United
6 States Department of Agriculture should study the effect that the
7 strength of the U.S. dollar relative to South American currencies is
8 having on American agriculture.

9 SECTION 3. That the Congress of the United States should devote
10 more resources to maintain and improve the transportation
11 infrastructure of the United States to preserve the American farmer's
12 comparative advantage in the cost of bringing agricultural products to
13 the marketplace.

14 SECTION 4. That Congress should take appropriate action to ensure
15 fair foreign competition with American agricultural products,
16 including, if necessary, modifying the laws of the United States that
17 impair the ability of the American farmer to compete in the world
18 marketplace.

19 SECTION 5. That the United States government work aggressively
20 with the European Union and other foreign countries to move the
21 regulatory process forward in a timely way and without regulatory
22 impediments so that American farmers can fully utilize the benefits of
23 agricultural biotechnology products.

24 SECTION 6. That the United States government work with South
25 American and other foreign countries to improve intellectual property
26 protection for biotechnology and other new technologies related to
27 agriculture so that United States technology providers, seed suppliers,
28 and farmers can have a more level playing field with respect to



1 technology input costs.

2 SECTION 7. That the United States Department of Agriculture and
3 the United States Congress take whatever actions are necessary to
4 ensure fair and free market access to new technologies, including
5 agricultural biotechnology, to help sustain American farmers'
6 leadership in global agriculture.

7 SECTION 8. That the United States Secretary of Agriculture and
8 other public officials representing agriculture be included as full and
9 equal partners in the formulation of United States policies affecting
10 foreign trade and that the United States Department of Agriculture
11 cooperate with state agricultural trade officials in a coordinated effort
12 to promote agricultural exports.

13 SECTION 9. That the government of the United States should
14 develop and implement a farm policy that provides a safety net for all
15 crop and livestock farmers and ranchers, large and small.

16 SECTION 10. That the Secretary of the Senate is directed to send
17 copies of this resolution to the following:

- 18 (1) The chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee
19 on Agriculture of the United States House of Representatives.
20 (2) The chairman and ranking member of the Agriculture,
21 Nutrition, and Forestry Committee of the United States Senate.
22 (3) All members of the Indiana congressional delegation.
23 (4) The secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

